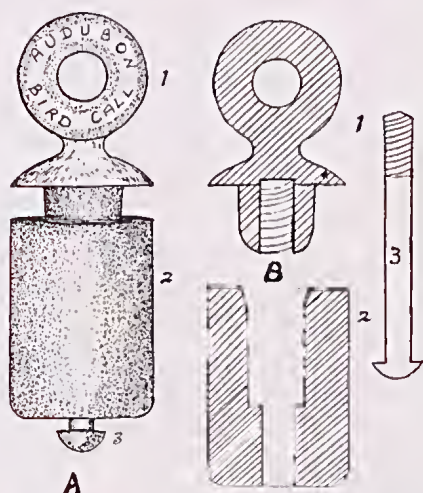


quite distinctive, are easy to find and more nesting colonies would give a clearer picture of this interesting species around Perth.

—Bro. MATTHEW AMEDY, De La Salle College, Midland.

**On Calling up Birds.**—In July 1962, when Dr. D. L. Serventy returned from America, he very kindly brought me back an Audubon Bird Call. This call was first developed in the U.S.A. in 1952 by Roger Eddy, and with the approval of the National Audubon Society it was trademarked the Audubon bird call. It is now almost a standard piece of equipment with most American bird watchers. The item is made from birchwood with a pewter twisting attachment, when the metal is turned in the wood a squeaking sound is produced; by manipulation the squeaks can be turned into chirps, eaks, or trills the loudness of which can easily be controlled. For anyone interested in observing birds at close quarters one of these gadgets should be part of their equipment.



A., The Audubon Bird Call, x 2. B., the component parts: 1, Metal Twister; 2, Hood, in section; 3, Screw.

The results obtained so far have been good and the following lists record the birds attracted on two particular occasions:—

At Rudgyard, 2 miles east of Denmark on Wilson Inlet, on January 20, 1963, the following birds responded—

Two Spinebills (*Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*), a male and a female. The female in her excitement perched on my shoulder, when she realized her mistake she flew to a branch about two feet away where the male joined her.

Six New Holland Honeyeaters (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*). These birds were very restless and kept flying onto a branch about five feet from me. They would stay for a few seconds chattering then depart as a group to some scrub about 30 feet away; after a short while the six would then come back to the branch. As long as the call was operating the birds kept coming and going.

One Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*). The bird came to within 8 feet; it perched quietly and remained for about ten minutes.

Six Banded Blue Wrens (*Malurus splendens*), 1 male and 5 females; they came to within three feet.

Two Red Winged Wrens (*Malurus elegans*), a male and a female. The birds were very shy and only fleeting glimpses could be obtained. They had the habit of sneaking up along the ground and standing very still in dark patches of undergrowth; from this position they would then suddenly dart back into the thick swamp vegetation.

Two Grey Fantails (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). These came to within two feet. They perched on a branch within touching distance and showed no signs of nervousness.

Six Silvereyes (*Zosterops gouldi*) to within 6 feet.

One Western Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla rufiventris*). The bird was not at all shy; it came to within 6 feet and perched quietly for some time.

One Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sancta*). This bird flew to a branch about ten feet away and sat for some time observing the observer.

The call was again used in the same area at Rudyard on January 7, 1964. On this occasion the following birds appeared within 10 minutes, and remained in close, approximately 10 ft. maximum, range for well over an hour:

Six Blue Wrens, 1 male and 5 females, to within 3 feet.

Three Fire-tails (*Zonaeginthus oculus*). These birds came to within 8 feet, they were restless and kept moving away and coming back.

Ten Silvereyes, to within 3 feet. These little birds were most amusing when approaching. They hid behind branches and peeked around the edge, and crept up tree trunks, on the side away from the observer. As they climbed they kept up a constant chirping.

Two Grey Fantails, to within 2 feet.

Five Spinebills, 2 males and 3 females, to within 6 feet.

Two Scarlet Robins (*Petroica multicolor*), a male and a female. They were not at all shy and spent some time listening and observing from about two feet away.

The bird call is really most successful and wherever it has been used birds have soon appeared nearby. The best results have been obtained with honeyeaters. Here at Guildford, Brown Honeyeaters and Singing Honeyeaters have been called up on a number of occasions. Silvereyes and Wagtails are most responsive and on two occasions Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes have come up to investigate. No results have come from Magpies, Mudlarks or any of the parrots. On one occasion, when operating the call by the river at Guildford, a Swamp Harrier swooped down in a most spectacular manner and two Sacred Kingfishers flew to a limb 10 ft. away.

I would like to thank Christopher Blakeman for assistance with the drawing of the Audubon Bird Call.

—PETER McMILLAN, Guildford.